

Chandos Professorship of Medicine in the  
University of St. Andrews.

---

TESTIMONIALS

IN FAVOUR OF

ALEXANDER HARVEY, M.D. EDIN.

LICENTIATE OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS  
OF EDINBURGH ;

MEMBER OF THE MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY OF ABERDEEN ;  
LECTURER ON THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE IN THE UNIVERSITY AND  
KING'S COLLEGE, AND LATE LECTURER ON THE INSTITUTES  
OF MEDICINE IN THE MARISCHAL COLLEGE AND  
UNIVERSITY, OF ABERDEEN ;  
PHYSICIAN TO THE ABERDEEN ROYAL INFIRMARY,  
ETC.

M.DCCC.XLIX.



*With Dr Dyce  
Dr H's compliments*

I.

Letter to the Very Reverend the Principals and the Professors  
of the University of St. Andrews.....Page 5

II. TESTIMONIALS.

From the Very Reverend Principal Dewar, D.D., Mar- ischal College .....	7
From the Medical Committee of Marischal College.....	8
From the Rev. Professor Pirie, D.D. ....	8
From Professor Owen.....	9
From Professor Alison .....	10
From Professor Miller.....	10
From Dr. Ewing.....	11
From Dr. Dyce .....	12
From Dr. Cadenhead .....	13
From Dr. Henderson .....	14
From Dr. J. Williamson .....	15
From Dr. Laing .....	15
From Dr. Kilgour .....	16
From Dr. Keith.....	17
From Dr. R. Jamieson .....	18
From Dr. Nicol .....	19
From Dr. Ogston.....	19
From Professor Pirrie .....	20
From the Rev. Simon Mackintosh, D.D. ....	22



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2019 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30560317>

TO THE VERY REVEREND THE PRINCIPALS  
AND THE PROFESSORS OF THE UNIVERSITY  
OF ST. ANDREWS:

ABERDEEN, *August* 15, 1849.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg respectfully to offer myself as a Candidate for the PROFESSORSHIP OF MEDICINE in the UNIVERSITY OF ST. ANDREWS, presently vacant by the death of the late eminent and lamented Dr. JOHN REID.

I will, as early as possible, lay my testimonials before you. In the meantime, I may be allowed to state generally the grounds on which I venture to solicit the appointment in your gift.

After passing through the usual course of general education in Aberdeen, I entered on the study of Medicine during the Session of 1827-8. I pursued my studies, in the first instance, at the Medical Schools of Aberdeen, Dublin, and Edinburgh. In 1832 I received the diploma of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh; after which I continued my studies at Guy's Hospital, London, and at the School of Medicine in Paris; and, returning to Edinburgh, took the degree of M.D. at the University there, in 1835.

Since then I have been constantly engaged in Aberdeen in the practice of my profession, combined, during the last ten years, with the teaching of an important branch of medical science. In 1836 I was appointed one of the medical attendants to the General Dispensary in Aberdeen, an office which I held for several years; and since 1847 I have been one of the Physicians to the Royal Infirmary. In 1839, I became Lecturer on the Institutes of Medicine, and very soon after one of the Examiners for Medical Degrees, in the Marischal College, as also Secretary to the Medical Committee in that



University ; and, during the present year, the Senatus Academicus of the University and King's College of Aberdeen did me the honour to appoint me, without any solicitation on my part, their Lecturer on the higher branch of Practice of Medicine.

I may be permitted to say, that, first as a student, and afterwards as a Lecturer on the Institutes of Medicine, I have devoted much attention to the subjects of General Anatomy and Physiology, including, under the latter, Vegetable and Animal, as well as Human Physiology, and also to the leading principles of Zoology, Comparative Anatomy, and Organic Chemistry ; and although, in my course of instructions to medical students, it was more immediately my duty to teach the Physiological Anatomy and Physiology of Man, I have always studied not to overlook the other branches, just mentioned, which are so intimately connected with Human Physiology.

I trust I may venture to express a hope, that my previous pursuits qualify me for undertaking either a course of General Anatomy and Physiology (under the name of Institutes of Medicine) for Medical Students ; or, if preferred, a course of Vegetable and Animal Physiology, combined with Botany and Zoology, so as to suit either the Theological Students, or the more advanced Students in Arts ; and that my experience as an Examiner for Medical Degrees, and as Medical Secretary in Marischal College, and my opportunities in the way of practice, have been such as would qualify me for the discharge of the other duties devolving on the Professor of Medicine.

I have the honour to be,

GENTLEMEN,

Your very obedient servant,

ALEXANDER HARVEY.

## TESTIMONIALS.

---

*From the Very Rev. DANIEL DEWAR, D.D., LL.D.,  
Principal of the Marischal College and University  
of Aberdeen, &c.*

CRAIGLOCHIE, 20th August, 1849.

I have much pleasure in bearing testimony to the professional talents and acquirements and excellent character of Alexander Harvey, Esq., M.D.

I have had ample opportunities of intimately knowing Dr. Harvey as Lecturer on the Institutes of Medicine, and as one of the Examiners for Medical Degrees, in the University with which I have the honour to be connected; and have formed a very high opinion of his literary as well as professional attainments, and also of the purity of his character and gentlemanly demeanour.

As Lecturer on the Institutes of Medicine, Dr. Harvey, during the ten years he has been connected with Marischal College, has given the highest satisfaction. He was particularly distinguished for the ability, combined with gentleness, with which he conducted his examinations for the Medical Degrees.

Of his merits as a member of the Medical Profession, I need only say that, in the large community of Aberdeen, they are well known and universally acknowledged.

D. DEWAR, D.D.,

Principal of Marischal College, Aberdeen.

*Extract from the Minutes of the Medical Committee of  
Marischal College and University of Aberdeen*

MARISCHAL COLLEGE, August 18, 1849.

The Medical Committee, on learning of Dr. Harvey's resignation of the office held by him in this University for the last ten years, unanimously agreed to record in their minutes their sense of the valuable services rendered to this school by their late Lecturer on the Institutes of Medicine, and their regret at losing these services at a time when, by his assiduous attention to the duties of his Class, and his eminent abilities as a teacher, he had brought the Class conducted by him to the highly efficient state in which it has been for some time past. They further directed that the Secretary should be requested to forward an excerpt of this minute to Dr. Harvey, with the unanimous expression of their regard for that gentleman, with whom they have so long had so much pleasure in being associated, both as a Medical Practitioner and as a Colleague.

W. MACGILLIVRAY, *Convener.*

Extracted from the Minutes of the Medical Committee of  
Marischal College and University, Aberdeen, by  
GEO. OGILVIE, *Secretary.*

---

*From the Rev. W. R. PIRIE, D.D., Professor of Divinity  
in the Marischal College and University of Aber-  
deen, &c.*

It affords me the greatest pleasure to certify the high value which, in common with my Colleagues, I attached to the services of Dr. Alexander Harvey, while he acted as Medical Lecturer in this University. His system of teaching was re-



garded as thoroughly efficient. His medical examinations appeared to me to be ably conducted, and at the same time with great simplicity; while, specially, his deservedly high character as a Christian and a gentleman, commanded the respect and regard both of his Colleagues and of Society.

Given at Marischal College and University, Aberdeen,  
this 20th August, 1849, by

W. R. PIRIE, D.D., S.S.T.P.

---

*From* RICHARD OWEN, F.R.S., F.G.S., *Hunterian Professor of Anatomy and Physiology to the Royal College of Surgeons of England, Corresponding Member of the Institute of France, &c.*

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS,

August 17, 1849.

Dear Sir,—I beg you will accept my very sincere thanks for the copies of your excellent observations on the Nature and Longevity of Trees. My pleasure in perusing them was equal to the pain I felt at having been previously unacquainted with them, so as to have omitted all reference to writings so much to the point in my Introductory Lectures, especially at page 57.

It is agreeable to find the views of the same truths springing up in different independently thinking minds, for it is one of the good grounds of conviction in the reality of such views; and, I assure you, it gave me great satisfaction to find that “Parthenogenesis” had been deemed worthy of the friendly notice and valuable contribution to its illustrations, which you have given me.

Believe me,

Yours faithfully and obliged,

RICHARD OWEN.

DR. HARVEY

*From WILLIAM P. ALISON, M.D., F.R.S.E., Fellow  
and late President of the Royal College of Physi-  
cians of Edinburgh ; Professor of the Practice  
of Medicine in the University of Edinburgh ;  
and First Physician to her Majesty in Scotland,  
&c.*

LYNTON, DEVONSHIRE, 18th August, 1849.

I hereby certify, that I have been well acquainted with Dr. Alexander Harvey, of Aberdeen, for some years past, and that I consider him a man thoroughly educated in his profession, fully experienced, both as a practitioner and a teacher, and qualified besides by the zeal and judgment with which he has entered on various physiological inquiries, to excite a strong interest in these enquiries among students of general science. I have no doubt, therefore, that if appointed to the Chair of Medicine at St. Andrews, he would honourably support the character which that University has recently acquired by the scientific reputation of my late excellent friend and pupil, Dr. Reid.

W. P. ALISON, M.D.

---

*From JAMES MILLER, F.R.S.E., F.R.C.S.E., Professor  
of Surgery in the University of Edinburgh, Sur-  
geon to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, &c.*

EDINBURGH, 51 QUEEN STREET,  
August 10, 1849.

My Dear Sir,—I have not had the pleasure of knowing you, personally, till lately ; but I know enough, both thus and otherwise, to enable me to form a very high opinion of your talents and acquirements.

I believe that, with a thorough and enlightened knowledge

of your profession, in all its branches ; with an excellent and enlarged acquaintance with general literature ; with a proved power of successfully communicating your knowledge to others ; and with a strong and productive bent towards original discovery and research, you are especially entitled to present yourself to the notice of the Patrons of the vacant Chair of Medicine in St. Andrews.

Wishing you every success,

Believe me,

Very truly yours,

JAS. MILLER.

DR. HARVEY, Aberdeen.

*From ALEXANDER EWING, of Tartowie, M.D., formerly Lecturer on Anatomy and Physiology, afterwards Lecturer on Surgery to the Universities of King's and Marischal Colleges, and late one of the Physicians of the Royal Infirmary of Aberdeen.*

ABERDEEN, 17th August, 1849.

As I understand that Dr. Harvey of this place is at present a Candidate for the Professorship of Medicine in the University of St. Andrews, I have much pleasure in giving my feeble testimony to his numerous qualifications, which, in my humble opinion, eminently fit him for the office in question.

I beg leave to say, that I have been acquainted with him for many years, first, as a class pupil, and since that as a private friend ; and from the very extensive and complete course of medical studies which he pursued in the most celebrated schools of the present day ; from his continued perseverance and ardent pursuit of medicine, and of many of its collateral branches, such as Natural History, &c., since that



period ; from his successful practice, both in private and also in public institutions ; from his habits of teaching in the University ; and from the high estimation in which he is held by the profession, as well as by the students ; and still further, from his amiable and estimable character in all the relations of life, I have no hesitation in saying that, in my humble opinion, he is eminently qualified for the situation of Professor of Medicine, for which he is now a Candidate, and that he would prove a great acquisition and ornament to any University.

ALEX. EWING, M.D.

*From ROBERT DYCE, M.D., Member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, Senior Physician to the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, Lecturer on Midwifery in the Marischal College and University of Aberdeen, &c.*

ABERDEEN, 20th August, 1849.

Although I cannot suppose that any certificate of mine can be entitled to much weight, it is yet a great satisfaction to me to have an opportunity of bearing my humble testimony to the high moral and intellectual qualities of my friend Dr. Harvey.

During an intercourse which has extended over many years, I have had numerous opportunities of ascertaining that he possesses varied talents,—naturally of force and acuteness, and which have been highly cultivated,—and that he is ardently attached to his profession, with every part of which I believe him to be thoroughly acquainted.

Dr Harvey has for several years been a successful teacher of Physiology in the school of Marischal College, and he has recently been appointed to the more important Chair of



Medicine in the sister school of King's College,—an office I feel assured he would have filled with credit to himself and advantage to the University.

As a gentleman, Dr. Harvey unites the utmost kindness of manner with high honourable bearing; and I am sure I only speak the general feeling of the profession in this place, when I say, that no man possesses more the respect and esteem of his brethren than does Dr. Harvey, and that he is eminently qualified to fill the Chair of Medicine to which he aspires.

RO. DYCE, M.D.

*From JOHN CADENHEAD, A.M., M.D., Member of the  
Royal College of Surgeons of England, Ophthalmic  
Surgeon to the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, &c.*

ABERDEEN, August 18, 1849.

My Dear Sir,—The best certificate I can give you, after more than twenty years' intimate friendship, is to express my regret at the possibility of your leaving Aberdeen. We shall all lose a most agreeable friend, an intelligent physician, and one, who, by his conduct, has made himself respected and esteemed by every one.

The papers you have at different times given to the public, through the Journals of the day, on scientific subjects, and the complimentary way in which, from being Lecturer on the Institutes of Medicine in Marischal College, you were recently appointed by the Senatus of King's College, to their Lectureship on the Practice of Medicine, are sure evidence that your acquirements are well known and appreciated by those whose interest it is to support the honour and reputation of their University.

And I am sure that, in whatever situation you may be afterwards placed, whether that of a Professor in a University, or that of a Practising Physician, you will ever devote your best energies to maintain the high and honourable character of our profession.

I am,

My dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

J<sup>N</sup>. CADENHEAD.

Dr. HARVEY.

---

*From WILLIAM HENDERSON, M.D. Lecturer on Materia Medica in the Marischal College and University of Aberdeen, formerly Physician to the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, &c.*

ABERDEEN, 21st August, 1849.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Dr. Harvey as an intelligent and active student ever since he began to practice Medicine in Aberdeen, and more especially since his appointment as Lecturer on the Institutes of Medicine in Marischal College. And I can bear cordial testimony to the earnest zeal with which he has cultivated the study of the various branches of medical science. In particular, I have had reason to know that the mode in which he taught the branch to which he was appointed was both enlightened and judicious,—neither overlooking the progressive development of the science by the discovery of new facts and principles, nor giving way to the crude speculations which have so often taken the place of facts in this branch of medical science.

I regretted much to lose him as a Colleague, but I shall be glad if he succeed in his application for the office which he is now seeking.

WM. HENDERSON. M.D.

*From* JOSEPH WILLIAMSON, A.M., M.D., *Member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, President of the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Aberdeen, &c.*

ABERDEEN, 18th Aug., 1849.

My Dear Sir,—In expressing my wishes for your success in your application for the vacant Professorship at St. Andrews, I have much pleasure in adding my feeble testimony to your numerous qualifications as a Teacher of Medical Science. Your habits of research, and practical acquaintance with the details of the profession, acquired by your connexion with the Medical Charities of Aberdeen, combined with uniformity of gentlemanly conduct and amiability of disposition, eminently qualify you, in my opinion, for the important office to which you aspire.

Believe me to be,

Very sincerely yours,

JOSEPH WILLIAMSON.

Dr. HARVEY.

---

*From* WILLIAM LAING, M.D., M.R.C.S.L., *Senior Surgeon to the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, late Lecturer on Clinical Surgery in that Institution, formerly Lecturer on Surgery in the Universities of Aberdeen, &c.*

Dr. Harvey has been known to me for a considerable number of years as a highly educated and scientific member of the Medical Profession. His situation as Lecturer on the Institutes of Medicine in Marischal College naturally drew his attention, in an especial manner, to General Anatomy and Physiology, both human and comparative; and the success



with which he cultivated these branches of medical science is sufficiently evinced by the various papers on these subject, which he has laid before the public. His position as one of the Physicians of the Aberdeen Infirmary has also given him ample opportunities for prosecuting his researches, and his success in teaching sufficiently proves his power of communicating knowledge.

W. LAING, M.D.

ABERDEEN, 18th August, 1849.

*From ALEXANDER KILGOUR, M.D., Physician to the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, Lecturer on Clinical Medicine in that Institution, formerly Lecturer on the Practice of Medicine in the University and King's College of Aberdeen, &c.*

[Dr. Kilgour, in a letter to Dr. Harvey, of date the 15th August 1849, in answer to an application for a testimonial suited to the present occasion, declines to grant one on the ground of principle, and because he entertains a strong antipathy to the "certificate system," but he most readily allows the publication of the subjoined letter, written by him ten years ago.]

ABERDEEN, 25th July, 1839.

My Dear Sir,—It is with the most sincere pleasure that I accede to your wish of giving my opinion of your fitness for the office of Lecturer on the Institutes of Medicine in the Medical School of Marischal College. Having known you well from the period of your commencing the study of medicine,—having been on the most intimate terms with you since you settled in practice here, and having had much conversation with you on medical subjects, and been frequently engaged with you in medical cases,—I can most conscientiously declare, that, in my opinion, you have, in an eminent degree, availed yourself of those numerous opportunities which your extensive and complete medical education, at different celebrated schools, put in your power; and that I know no one



more qualified, both from estimable private worth and scientific acquirements, for holding a lectureship.

I most sincerely hope you will be successful in obtaining the Lectureship on Institutes of Medicine, as I have good reason to know that the subjects embraced in it have occupied much of your time and attention.

And I am,

My Dear Sir,

Most truly yours,

AL. KILGOUR, M.D.

DR. HARVEY.

---

*From WILLIAM KEITH, M.D., Member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, Surgeon to the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, Lecturer on Clinical Surgery in that Institution, Author of various Papers on Surgery, &c.*

257, UNION STREET, ABERDEEN,

20th August, 1849.

My Dear Sir,—It gives me pleasure to bear testimony to the high position you occupy in the esteem of the profession in Aberdeen. The zeal and success with which you have practised your profession, and the knowledge you have displayed in branches collateral thereto, afford ample evidence of your fitness to fill the Medical Chair now vacant at St. Andrews.

With sentiments of the highest regard,

I am, my dear Sir,

Very faithfully yours,

WM. KEITH.

DR. HARVEY, Aberdeen.

*From ROBERT JAMIESON, M.D., Lecturer on Medical Jurisprudence in the University and King's College of Aberdeen, one of the Medical Officers of the Aberdeen General Dispensary, &c.*

ABERDEEN, 16th August, 1849.

My Dear Sir,—On the occasion of your presenting yourself as a Candidate for the vacant Professorship of Medicine in St. Andrew's University, it gives me much satisfaction to testify to your eminent qualifications for such an appointment. These are well known to all your professional brethren in this place; and your merits have also given you a very high position in the estimation of the general public. You have had great experience in the practice of your profession, and your abilities as a Physician have been amply tested in the appointment which you formerly held in the General Dispensary, and that which you now hold in the Royal Infirmary. As a teacher, your recent advancement to the Lectureship on Practice of Medicine in King's College is sufficient evidence of your previous success.

If it be an object to have not only a scientific but a practical man in the Chair of Medicine, the Patrons would have every reason to congratulate themselves in appointing one so skilled as a practitioner, so experienced both as a teacher and as an examiner of aspirants for medical honours, and so well fitted by character and acquirements to be a creditable and desirable Colleague.

I am,

My Dear Sir,

Sincerely yours,

ROBERT JAMIESON, M.D.

DR. HARVEY.

*From* GEORGE J. NICOL, M.D., *Physician to the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, &c.*

ABERDEEN, 15th August, 1849.

It affords me very great pleasure to bear testimony to the many good qualities, both general and professional, of my friend Dr. Harvey. An acquaintance with him of several years, and latterly as a Colleague at the Infirmary, during which time I have had many opportunities of judging of his professional qualifications, enables me to speak of them with confidence; and his zeal and industry in the discharge of his various duties are also well known to me. I am satisfied, that, should he succeed in attaining the office to which he now aspires, he will be found in every way worthy of it.

GEORGE J. NICOL, M.D.

*From* FRANCIS OGSTON, M.D., *Lecturer on Medical Jurisprudence in the Marischal College and University of Aberdeen, &c.*

ABERDEEN, 20th August, 1849.

My Dear Sir,—I have much pleasure in having this opportunity afforded me of joining your numerous medical friends here in testifying to the wide spread feeling amongst us of sincere respect for your professional talents, general acquirements, and gentlemanly conduct. As one of your colleagues during the ten years in which your *alma mater* enjoyed the benefit of your labours as Lecturer on the Institutes of Medicine, I have recently had the gratification of being a party to the record, in the Minute Books of Marischal College, of the joint expression by its Medical Teachers of their opinion of the skill, assiduity, and success, with which that



class was so long conducted by you, and of their regret at losing your valuable co-operation.

With best wishes for your success in your present application,

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

F. OGSTON.

DR. HARVEY.

*From WILLIAM PIRRIE, M.D., F.R.S.E., M.R.C.S.,  
ED., Regius Professor of Surgery in the Marischal  
College and University, formerly Lecturer on Ana-  
tomy and Physiology in the Universities of Aber-  
deen, Surgeon to the Royal Infirmary, Author of  
various papers on Surgery, &c.*

238, UNION STREET WEST, ABERDEEN,

15th August, 1849.

My Dear Sir,—As you intend to apply for the Professorship of Medicine in the University of St. Andrews, it gives me great pleasure to state my opinion of your qualifications.

As I have been intimately acquainted with you since you were a student, and conversant with the whole of your progress in the profession since that time, I feel the greater confidence in stating my unqualified opinion that you are in every respect eminently qualified to fill the situation of Professor of Medicine.

The grounds on which I more particularly found that opinion are—That, after receiving an excellent general education, you had the advantage of a very liberal education in all the branches of Medical Science in Aberdeen, Dublin, Edinburgh, London, and Paris; that, after settling in Aberdeen, you were first appointed Lecturer on the Institutes of



Medicine, and very soon afterwards one of the Examiners for Medical Degrees, and also Medical Secretary in Marischal College; that you filled the above-mentioned offices with the highest credit to yourself and benefit to the Medical School of this University; and that you discharged all your public duties with great ability, diligence, and zeal, and secured for yourself, in a high degree, the confidence and regard both of your colleagues and pupils. It is also well known that your class has been always numerously and respectably attended, and that you have been most assiduous in promoting the best interests of this Medical School.

I may state that you have, at different times, contributed several papers on important professional subjects to the Medical Journals; and I cannot forbear expressing the gratification it has given me to find that, in a work recently published, on "Parthenogenesis," by Professor Owen, the views promulgated by that celebrated physiologist are entirely in accordance with those, as to the nature of trees and of plants generally, which you had yourself advanced some years ago, and which, as is well known to your friends here, were the result of your own independent reflections.

Permit me to add, that, as a gentleman, as a friend, and as a physician, I have always highly valued and esteemed you; and that, from all these circumstances, I can most confidently recommend you as eminently qualified for the office for which you intend to become a Candidate.

Wishing you every success, believe me,

My Dear Sir,

Yours very sincerely,

WILLIAM PIRRIE.

DR. HARVEY.

*From the Rev. SIMON MACKINTOSH, D.D., Minister  
of the East Parish, Aberdeen.*

ABERDEEN, 22d August, 1849.

I have had the privilege of being on intimate terms of friendship with Dr. Harvey for several years. It would be presumption in me to speak of his professional acquirements; but I may be allowed to say—what I know is the universal opinion in this city—that they are of the highest order. As a gentleman, however, and a Christian, no language I can use is too strong to express my unqualified approbation of his character. His amiability of mind and kindness of heart—his consistent walk and conversation—his thorough knowledge of both moral and religious truth, and his uniform unobtrusive, but earnest desire to promote its advancement, have long rendered him a blessing to this community; and I am fully persuaded that, wherever his lot is cast, he will receive and retain the respect of every enlightened mind.

S. MACKINTOSH, D.D.



